

Withdrawal of Russia A Problem for Berlin

American and Diplomatic
Observers See Vast
Problem Ahead

Ukraine Too Remote
To Give Much Help

Disorganized Systems of
Transportation Seen as
Great Obstacle

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—With the opening of the great campaign of 1918 on the Western front apparently within sight, military men here examined today with profound interest the situation created by the signing of a peace pact between the Central Powers and the new Ukraine republic, and the decision of the Bolshevik Russian government to stop fighting and demobilize the army.

Their conclusions were not discouraging. These events on their face would appear to set free enormous German forces for the impending battle in the West and also to furnish new sources of food supply for the Teutonic allies, but many factors detract from the advantages the Central Powers may derive.

One of the threats against the Western front dwelt upon in public discussion is the fact that presumably 1,500,000 prisoners of war held in Russia would be released to strengthen the German army. The fact is said to be, however, that the great majority of the Austrians captured by the Russians are Austrians, not available for Western front operations by present indications. Most of the others are civilians or camp followers of one kind or another, and, so far as known, only a small number of German troops were captured on that front. Any men from the prison camps are regarded as of doubtful military value for some time to come, as the Russians, unable to feed their own soldiers, hardly have improved the health of captives.

Doubt Food Transport
There is doubt here also as to the extent to which the food resources of the Ukraine or of Russia can be brought to the aid of the German people in the near future, for it was failure of the Russian transportation system that worked in Germany's interest in undermining the fighting power of the Russian armies.

The same condition now, necessarily, works against the Central Powers in their desire to get out food supplies. Moreover, the remote location of the Ukraine, with its agricultural system in such poor condition that it may have to be made over, will present a difficult problem in view of the confusion that prevails throughout that region.

Demobilization of the Russian army will mean that the Austro-German-Bulgarian forces on the frontiers can be wholly withdrawn. There will be a constant threat of renewed hostilities, and the Teutons must see to it that ample food is sent to hand.

In fact, diplomatic observers say, Germany is confronted with the most difficult and unprecedented problem she has met during the present war. As a result of the declaration that Russia has abandoned hostilities without the signing of a peace treaty, the refusal of the Russians to sign any treaties alienating the Russian West will leave the diplomats point out, will leave the Central Powers without any legal claim to their possession. German and Austrian tenure will rest entirely upon the assertion of force, without recognition of international law, and consequently must be subject to the decision of whatever form of tribunal finally determines the basis of general peace.

Trouble in Sight
Should Germany and Austria refuse to recognize the Bolshevik decree terminating the war, without the confirmation of that action by a treaty in the usual form, their armies would be in the position of killing an unresisting and unarmed people, a proceeding regarded here as certain to cause trouble for the Teutonic governments with their people at home. An appeal from the Russian people to the working classes of Germany and Austria, it is believed here, would not fail of a sympathetic response, embarrassing to the military parties.

The United States never has recognized the Bolshevik regime, and Russia's abandonment of the war will not alter existing relations. This was made clear at the State Department today, where it also was stated that the formal signing of a peace treaty by the

Austria's Balkan Policy Caused War, Says Lichnowsky

German Diplomat Also
Chides Own Nation for
Bosphorus Issue

Raps Count Berchtold

Prince Asserts Jealousy of
Russia Was Excited by
Teuton Scheme

A new version of the origin of the world war, ascribing responsibility for the outbreak of the conflict not to the assassination of the Austrian heir apparent and his consort, but to an attempt by Count Berchtold to force a revision in Austro-Hungarian interest of the Balkan settlement embodied in the treaty of Bucharest, is given by Prince Lichnowsky, German Ambassador to London at the outbreak of the war.

The German diplomat, in this contribution to the diplomatic history of the war, which appears as a three-column article in a recent issue of the Berlin "Tageblatt" received here, does not free his own government from responsibility, maintaining that Germany's attempt to establish herself as master of the Bosphorus was a contributory cause to the war.

Lichnowsky criticizes the pre-war lines of the Eastern policy of Germany, which after Bismarck and, as the former ambassador contends, against the intentions of the German empire builder, abandoned its earlier close relations with Russia and broadened the Austro-German alliance to give Austria-Hungary a blank credit for support in promoting its interests in the Balkans.

Germany's attitude in the Bosnian crisis of 1908 led to a further alienation of the traditional friendship with Russia, whose neutrality had made possible the Prussian successes in 1866 and 1870.

Russian Jealousy Excited
"While a sweeping interpretation of the alliance," Lichnowsky continues, "permitted our Austro-Magyar friends to combat with our help the Serbian efforts toward unification, the position of dominance on the Bosphorus for which Germany was striving excited the jealousy of Russia. Germany next helped Austria-Hungary to force through at the London conference of ambassadors the establishment of the Kingdom of Albania, with the intent of shutting Serbia off from the Adriatic Sea."

Serbia saw herself forced through this to turn southward in an endeavor to reach the sea at Salonica through accord with a friendly Greece. "And when finally," writes Lichnowsky, "the significant sentence of the article, 'Count Berchtold, who had never really recognized the Bucharest treaty, desired to take up a revision of this treaty, supported by the alliance, there developed through the resistance of Russia the world war, which now confronts us with the task of finding new, and it is hoped, lasting bases for our future relations with Russia.'"

Contempt for Bolsheviks
Lichnowsky, the born aristocrat, has only words of contempt for the present regime in Russia, which he terms oligarchy, or the rule of the mob, and says will reduce Russia to the status of a primitive nature state, without any but the most rudimentary trade, industry or foreign commerce.

Should it continue, Russia will cease to exist as a world power, with whose policy Germany will have cause to worry; but in the event of Russia taking the form of a federated democratic republic, on American lines, which he considers the most probable outcome, Lichnowsky declares that the question of the new basis for Germany's relations to Russia becomes one of the most pressing problems of Germany's future.

He considers the restoration of the monarchy in Russia improbable. He declares, however, that under either a monarchy or a democratic republic Russia is scarcely likely to accept the passing of Poland under German domination, and he sees in the present German plans for Poland a source of embarrassment and danger for Germany.

Lithuania Declares Independence Again; Vilna Made Capital

BERNE, Feb. 12.—The Supreme National Council of Lithuania in Switzerland, which is safeguarding the foreign interests of Lithuania, has sent to all belligerent and neutral nations having diplomatic representatives in Switzerland the text of a resolution adopted by the Vilna State Council, proclaiming the reestablishment of the independent status of Lithuania, with Vilna as the capital.

The council declares that, despite all oppressions of the past, the Lithuanian people has preserved its nationality and strength, and now proposes to reorganize the independence of Lithuania. All the diplomatic representatives received a delegation from the council. The German Minister promised to forward the communication to Berlin.

German Proffers a Ruse To Murder, Lewis Asserts

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Germany's war lords were scathingly denounced, and her peace offers declared to be "only a ruse to murder," in an address commemorating the birthday anniversary of Abraham Lincoln, delivered in the Senate today by Senator James Hamilton Lewis of Illinois. The speaker made an eloquent appeal to Americans to fight for "the democracy he added by Jefferson, implanted by Lincoln and advanced by Wilson."

Struggles of the world's democracies to retain their liberty were recounted by Senator Lewis, quoting the German poet Goethe, that "those who have liberty must fight to keep it." He referred to President Lincoln as "the apostle of the liberty of man and the standard bearer of the democracy of the world." This nation's progress and freedom, he declared, are the world's inspiration for republican government.

"Democracy Must Fight"
"No democracy was ever founded," he said, "that did not have to fight to continue its existence or maintain its ideals."

"From the envy of our situation, from jealousy of our progress, hatred was aroused in the hearts of others. America's institutions of freedom, inspiring mankind to her example, inflamed the souls of the royal rulers of Prussia with fear and inspired them to the war of destruction of all that America stood for and was living for. This, to them, was necessary that they might avoid American influence upon the hearts of the liberty-loving German people."

"Germany, with the stealth of a hidden assassin and the brutality of a savage, steals upon the ships carrying the boys of American mothers to a French

port and shoots them to death, drowning them in the frozen seas, and leaving them helpless to perish in their agonies as they sink in the ocean red-dened with their blood. And this while the assassin was appealing to the world for consideration and crying to America for a friendship that would suspend attack while terms of peace were under deliberation!"

"Let the world now know that this treachery of assassins, this murder under the cover of Christian advance, this stroke in the dark that killed the sons of this republic while the people were yielding to the prayer of Germany for consideration, for all time ended any confidence that may have been given any German promises or German pretences of peace and honor. What ever prospect there was held out of peace in the German offer is now shown to have been a deception and ruse to murder, and ends forever the prospect of a peace until Germany is beaten to where she obeys the instincts of humanity through fear and yields peace and gives justice through being crushed to where she is powerless for treachery and forced by helplessness to seek the mercy of mankind."

No Threat by President
It has been charged, Senator Lewis said, that America promises or German governments and people of foreign lands to take our form of government. This he denied, asserting the President's belief for democracy as a right of the whole world.

"The promise of President Wilson to 'make the world safe for democracy,' he added, 'is no threat to make the world take democracy. It is but the assurance of the effort to give to the world its chance to take democracy.'"

Lincoln's Birthday was also observed in the House, Representative Johnson, of Kentucky, in whose district Lincoln was born, presiding, while Representative Russell, of Missouri, read the Gettysburg Address.

pecially on the authenticity of the telegrams of Count von Bernstorff, former German Ambassador to the United States, duplicates of which, he insisted, should be produced rather than to rely on American State Department documents. When the prosecutor repeated as on Monday, that the American Government could not be questioned, the priest created a scene by asserting passages taken from the American government has not the right to shoot at my innocent brother."

Maurice Violette, former Minister of Submarine, testified that the current opinion among parliamentary and ministerial circles in August, 1917, was that no case would be found against Bolo Pacha, and that M. Painleve, then Minister of War, had asserted that this case did not warrant an arrest.

M. Violette said that Minister of War Painleve had informed the council of eleven investigating the question of lifting the parliamentary immunity of former Premier Caillaux for the purpose of taking his testimony in connection with the case that unless additional evidence was obtained from America Bolo could not be arrested. To this statement Prosecutor Mornet replied:

"I readily admit that had America remained neutral we could not have got to the bottom of this case and other cases and that Bolo to-day would be walking the streets free."

In the opinion of prominent lawyers present at the trial the refusal to turn over the two documents sent by Prosecutor Mornet to M. Painleve may prove a good argument for an appeal to the Court of Cassation if Bolo is convicted.

John D. Wants 4 Special Deputies to Guard Home

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., Feb. 12.—John D. Rockefeller to-day asked Sheriff Nossiter, of Westminister, to assign four special deputy sheriffs to guard his home at Pocantico Hills and the estate of his son, John D. Jr.

Under the administration of Sheriff Wiesendanger, four of the Oil King's private guards were commissioned as deputies. Their commissions have now been renewed by Mr. Rockefeller, who has new deputies or new commissions for his guards.

Russians Here Ask Wilson to Oppose Bolshevik Peace

Convention Says Trotzky
Has No Right to Disband Army

His Followers Barred

President Urged to Free Those
Who Failed to Register
for Draft

The Russian Civic Convention completed its four-day session in Arlington Hall late yesterday afternoon by addressing two resolutions to President Wilson, one denouncing the Bolshevik and the other calling upon the President to safeguard the rights of Russian citizens in the United States under the military service regulations. The convention went on record as declaring that no self-appointed government in Russia has any right to declare peace or to disband the army during the war against the Central Powers for world-wide democracy.

President Wilson Praised
Its attack on the Bolshevik régime brought no response from its champions here because the followers of Lenin and Trotzky were barred from the final session. Waldemar Krulak, secretary of the convention, in his address to the delegates, praised President Wilson as having been first to recognize the cause of free Russia, and called him the spokesman of civilization in its war against Prussianism. He added:

"We Russians know that the best sentiment of Russia today is with President Wilson in all that he says about terms of peace in Europe. We know that the best sentiment of 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 of Russians in the United States is not in sympathy with this laying down of arms by the self-appointed rulers of Russia while a war for the freedom of the world is in progress and must be decided."

President Semenovskiy and Secretary Krulak signed the following telegram to President Wilson: "The first of all-Russian civic conventions held in America, with delegates selected by 30,000 organized Russian citizens in the United States, greets the American people through the first citizen of the United States, and acknowledges with gratitude that he was the first to respond to the Russian revolutionary free people. We recognize in you the first to declare to the whole world the terms of a general peace, supported by the highest ideals of international justice."

"We greet and thank this country, which has so hospitably and so widely opened its doors, and in which we find a refuge here. We consider it our duty to assure you, on behalf of ourselves and our brotherly Americans with whom we have cast lots, that a vast majority of Russians in the motherland and here in America belong to that political school which recognizes in Russia only the Constituent Assembly as having the right to work out the internal and foreign policies of a sovereign people, and that, therefore, nobody has the authority in the name of the independent Russian democracy to solve questions of war or peace other than the Assembly."

"We protest against any kind of separate peace signed in the name of Russia."

Asks Aid for Draft Violators
The second message addressed to the President was a petition for the release of Russian citizens who failed to register last June, as required by the draft laws. Most of the violations, they contend, are due to ignorance of the language and misinterpretation of the rules, rather than to any criminal intent. Thirty-four Russian Quakers held in Arizona prisons are specifically mentioned in the petition.

The rights of unnaturalized Russians are also to be safeguarded by a committee appointed to confer with the representatives of Russia in Washington. The convention sent a telegram to Ambassador Bakmeiev, calling his attention to what some of the delegates called a failure of the Russian Embassy to protect the rights of Russian citizens, particularly in respect to the draft.

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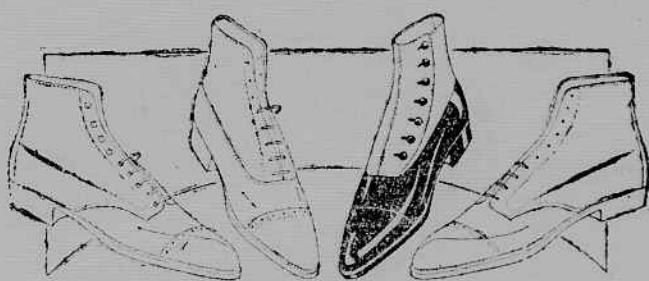
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Last Day for Aliens To Register Here

This is the last day for enemy aliens to register. The registration lists close at the various police stations to-night. Up to 11 o'clock last night the total registered in Greater New York was 39,503. Yesterday's figures were as follows:

Manhattan, 20,220; Brooklyn, 9,225; The Bronx, 5,189; Queens, 4,046; and Richmond, 813.

200

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